

Interim Report on the District Goals for the 2014-15 School

February 2015

1. To increase student achievement in writing by developing a comprehensive writing program for grades K-12.

A committee of teachers from across the district has been meeting to develop a comprehensive writing program. Mr. Brian Ersalesi, the Supervisor of Language Arts, chairs the committee.

The committee's mission is to create a formal writing philosophy that:

- Is Common Core aligned.
- Has universal language.
- Is vertically aligned.
- Is rigorous, yet modifiable for all student populations.

The committee has:

- Surveyed all teachers in all grades to research the current practices of teaching writing in all grades.
- Surveyed all teachers in all grades in order to develop a needs assessment.
- Reviewed current texts in use.
- Reviewed new samples from publishing companies.
- Determined that a "homegrown" approach to writing is best for the district (rather than a purchased one).

The committee is:

- Writing the framework and using the Common Core Standards to create a scope and sequence.
- Creating standardized topics/assessments.
- Creating standardized rubrics for each grade level.
- On target to have a writing philosophy and framework that will increase student achievement in writing for the 2015-2016 school year.

2. To implement a district-wide study for a Blended Curriculum resulting in a five-year action plan to revise curriculum, develop a budget, and acquire and implement grade level appropriate technology platforms for students.

The Blended Curriculum Committee, chaired by Mr. Charles Ryan, the Supervisor of World Language and Social Studies, has been meeting to develop a five-year action plan to revise curriculum, develop a budget, and acquire and implement grade level appropriate technology platforms for students.

- A district-wide committee has been assembled and initial building level research/needs assessments have been completed regarding blended learning curriculum and technology platforms.

- The district-wide committee is in the process of completing a prioritized hierarchy of technology and curriculum needs for each grade level. This step will be complete by the end of February.
- Upon completion of the technological platform needs assessment, a financial subcommittee will meet in early March with the superintendent, district business administrator and director of technology to create a budget analysis to fully implement blended learning technological platforms for the next 3-5 school years.
- The Blended Curriculum Committee will reconvene in the spring to create and outline a pilot program to begin the implementation of blended learning curriculum and platforms in each grade level for the 2015-2016 school year.

3. To develop a middle school schedule to be aligned with the requirements of the Common Core Content Standards.

Dr. Shannon Hopkins, the Director of Guidance, has chaired a committee of Middle School educators to examine the development of a middle school in the district. The Middle School is the most expedient way to develop true middle school curriculum.

- The Middle School Committee met in September to discuss a formal proposal to present to the BOE for approval.
- It was decided at that point to pursue the research on a true middle school model pending Board of Education approval.
- Mr. Hurley and Mr. Kelly visited Lyndhurst to tour the modular units they employed to expand an elementary school.
- Mr. Hurley has updated the PT Council and the Board of Education on the progress of the committee's work.
- The district's architect, Mr. Kellen Chapin, is reviewing the use of modular classrooms at Union School and developing an analysis and cost projection.
- In December a presentation was made to the Board of Education by Dr. Hopkins highlighting the pertinent research to support the findings and seek approval to continue the investigation into a middle school model.
- In January the committee met with Mr. Hurley who outlined the tasks of the committee moving forward.
- The committee is currently researching and developing a projection for courses, staffing, and scheduling for a 6-8 and 7-8 middle school models.
- The committee is planning to present a proposal to the board of Education by April.